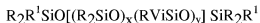


IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A treated kaolin containing silicone rubber composition consisting essentially of:

(i) one or more polymers which have a viscosity of 1,000,000 centistokes or more and have the formula



wherein each R is the same or different and is an alkyl group containing 1-6 carbon atoms, a phenyl group or a 3,3,3-trifluoroalkyl group, R¹ is a hydroxy group or an alkenyl group, x is an integer, y is zero or an integer, and x + y is between 700 and 10 000;

(ii) treated kaolin

(iii) a curing agent; and

(iv) optional additives selected from the group of one or more rheology modifiers, pigments, colouring agents, anti-adhesive agents, plasticizers, adhesion promoters, blowing agents, fire retardants and dessicants,

which composition is free of reinforcing fillers.

2. (Currently Amended) A composition according to Claim 1 ~~wherein characterized in that~~ the polymer(s) comprise(s) a mixture of two polysiloxane gums having the formula $R_2ViSiO[(R_2SiO)_x(RViSiO)_y]SiR_2Vi$ and the formula $R_2ViSi(R_2SiO)_xSiR_2Vi$ wherein in each formula, R represents an alkyl group containing 1-6 carbon atoms; Vi represents the vinyl group; and x and y each have values of 500-1,000.

3. (Currently Amended) A composition according to Claim 1 ~~wherein characterised in that~~ the kaolin comprises a kaolin treated with an alkoxysilane of the formula $R_{(4-n)}Si(OR)_n$ wherein n has a value of 1-3; and R is an alkyl group, an aryl group, or an alkenyl group.

4. (Currently Amended) A composition according to Claim 3 ~~wherein characterised in that~~ the alkoxysilane is a compound selected from the group consisting of methyltriethoxysilane, methyltrimethoxysilane, phenyltrimethoxysilane, vinyltriethoxysilane, and vinyltrimethoxysilane.

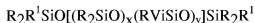
5. (Currently Amended) A composition according to Claim 1 ~~wherein characterised in that~~ the composition comprises about equal amounts of the polymer(s) and the kaolin.

6. (Currently Amended) A composition according to Claim 1 ~~wherein characterised in that~~ the curing agent is a peroxide selected from the group consisting of benzoyl peroxide, 2,4-dichlorobenzoyl peroxide, di-t-butyl peroxide, and dicumyl peroxide.

7. (Currently Amended) A composition in accordance with Claim 1 ~~wherein characterised in that~~ the curing agent is an organohydrogensiloxane curing agent, and a platinum group metal hydrosilylation catalyst is added in an amount sufficient to cure the composition.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of making a treated kaolin containing silicone rubber composition consisting essentially of:

(i) one or more polymers which have a viscosity of 1,000,000 centistokes or more and have the formula



wherein each R is the same or different and is an alkyl group containing 1-6 carbon atoms, a phenyl group or a 3,3,3-trifluoroalkyl group, R^1 is a hydroxy group or an alkenyl group, x is an integer, y is zero or an integer, and x + y is between 700 and 10 000;

- (ii) treated kaolin
- (iii) a curing agent; and
- (iv) optional additives selected from the group of one or more rheology modifiers, pigments, colouring agents, anti-adhesive agents, plasticizers, adhesion promoters, blowing agents, fire retardants and dessicants,

which composition is free of reinforcing fillers, and

which method consists essentially of the steps:

- (i) mixing the polymer(s) and treated kaolin under room temperature conditions,
- (ii) adding a curing agent to the mixture in (i); and curing the mixture in (ii) at a temperature above room temperature by the application of heat.

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 8 in which room temperature is normal ambient temperature of 20-25°C.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A composition according to Claim 1 ~~wherein characterised in~~
~~that~~ each R group is a methyl or ethyl group.

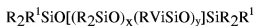
12. (Currently Amended) A treated kaolin containing silicone rubber composition consisting essentially of:

(i) 100 parts by weight of a polysiloxane gum having a viscosity of 1,000,000 centistokes or more and comprising equal parts by weight of;

(a) a first polysiloxane gum, and

(b) a second polysiloxane gum different from the first polysiloxane gum,

wherein the first and second polysiloxane gums independently have the formula



and wherein each R is the same or different and is an alkyl group containing 1-6 carbon atoms, a phenyl group or a 3,3,3-trifluoroalkyl group, R^1 is a hydroxy group or an alkenyl group, x is an integer, y is zero or an integer, and x + y is between 700 and 10 000;

(ii) calcined kaolin treated with an alkyoxysilane selected from the group consisting of methyltriethoxysilane, methyltrimethoxysilane, phenyltrimethoxysilane, vinyltriethoxysilane, vinyltrimethoxysilane, and combinations thereof;

(iii) a curing agent; and

(iv) optional additives selected from the group of one or more rheology modifiers, pigments, colouring agents, anti-adhesive agents, plasticizers, adhesion promoters, blowing agents, fire retardants and dessicants,

which composition is free of reinforcing fillers.

13. (Currently Amended) A composition according to Claim 12 wherein characterized ~~in that~~ the first polysiloxane gum has the formula $R_2ViSiO[(R_2SiO)_x(RViSiO)_y]SiR_2Vi$ and the second polysiloxane gum has the formula $R_2ViSi(R_2SiO)_xSiR_2Vi$ wherein in each formula, R

represents an alkyl group containing 1-6 carbon atoms; Vi represents the vinyl group; and x and y each have values of 500-1,000.

14. (Currently Amended) A composition according to Claim 13 ~~wherein characterised in that~~ each R group is a methyl or ethyl group.

15. (Currently Amended) A composition according to Claim 14 ~~wherein characterised in that~~ the curing agent is a peroxide selected from the group consisting of benzoyl peroxide, 2,4-dichlorobenzoyl peroxide, di-t-butyl peroxide, and dicumyl peroxide.

16. (Currently Amended) A composition in accordance with Claim 14 ~~wherein characterised in that~~ the curing agent is an organohydrogensiloxane curing agent, and a platinum group metal hydrosilylation catalyst is added in an amount sufficient to cure the composition.

17. (Currently Amended) A composition according to Claim 13 ~~wherein characterised in that~~ the curing agent is a peroxide selected from the group consisting of benzoyl peroxide, 2,4-dichlorobenzoyl peroxide, di-t-butyl peroxide, and dicumyl peroxide.

18. (Currently Amended) A composition in accordance with Claim 13 ~~wherein characterised in that~~ the curing agent is an organohydrogensiloxane curing agent, and a platinum group metal hydrosilylation catalyst is added in an amount sufficient to cure the composition.

19. (Currently Amended) A composition according to Claim 12 ~~wherein characterised in that~~ the curing agent is a peroxide selected from the group consisting of benzoyl peroxide, 2,4-

dichlorobenzoyl peroxide, di-t-butyl peroxide, and dicumyl peroxide.

20. (Currently Amended) A composition in accordance with Claim 12 wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the curing agent is an organohydrogensiloxane curing agent, and a platinum group metal hydrosilylation catalyst is added in an amount sufficient to cure the composition.